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5 October 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

State Department review
completed

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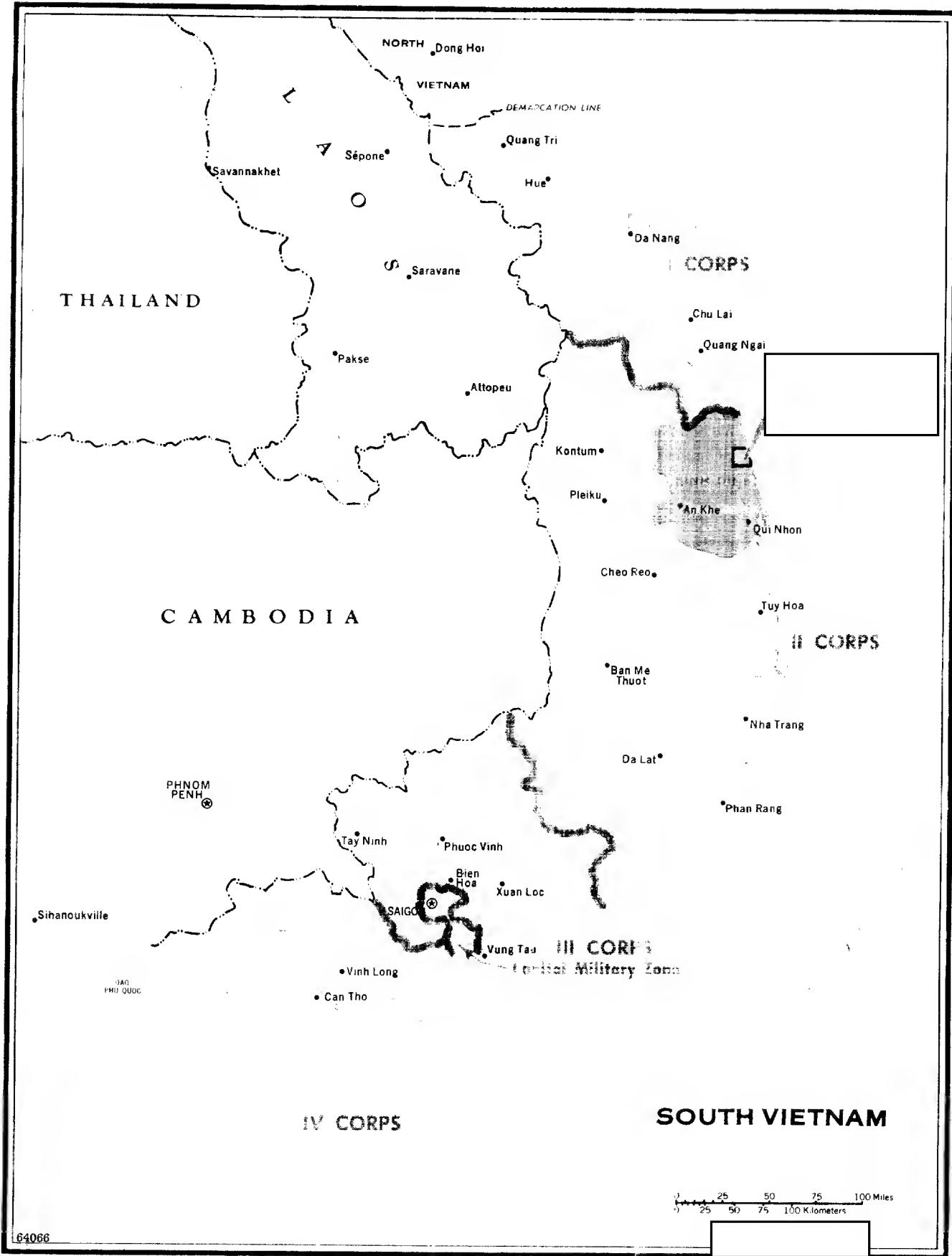
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5 Oct 66 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Political Situation in South Vietnam: In-fighting between northern and southern cabinet members threatens to touch off a cabinet crisis.

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Allied forces conducting Operation IRVING are continuing to mop up an encircled Viet Cong/North Vietnamese force in the coastal highland area of Binh Dinh Province.

US 1st Air Cavalry troops are driving enemy remnants toward the coast where South Vietnamese units have been deployed in blocking positions. No new heavy fighting has been reported in the past 24 hours, however. Communist losses in the five-day operation currently total 314 killed, 191 captured, and 463 suspects detained. (Map)

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• West Germany: Chancellor Erhard's recent visit is widely interpreted in Germany as the start of increasing divergence between West German and US interests.

The US Embassy in Bonn reports that editorials in a large portion of the German press hold that US concern has shifted from Europe to Asia. The US is seen as wanting an understanding with the Soviet Union which will cement the status quo in Europe and have lasting adverse effects on German interests.

West German observers believe the heretofore close relations between Bonn and Washington will be eroded by months of tough negotiations on the offset issue, by US intentions to withdraw forces from Europe, and by US efforts to obtain a nuclear nonproliferation agreement with the Soviet Union.

Those who want Erhard out have been quick to disparage his performance in Washington and see in it a setback for close US-German ties, a policy with which Erhard is identified. A leading advocate of this line of criticism is Bundestag President Eugen Gerstenmaier, whose open bid to replace Erhard is indicative of the growing boldness of his opponents.

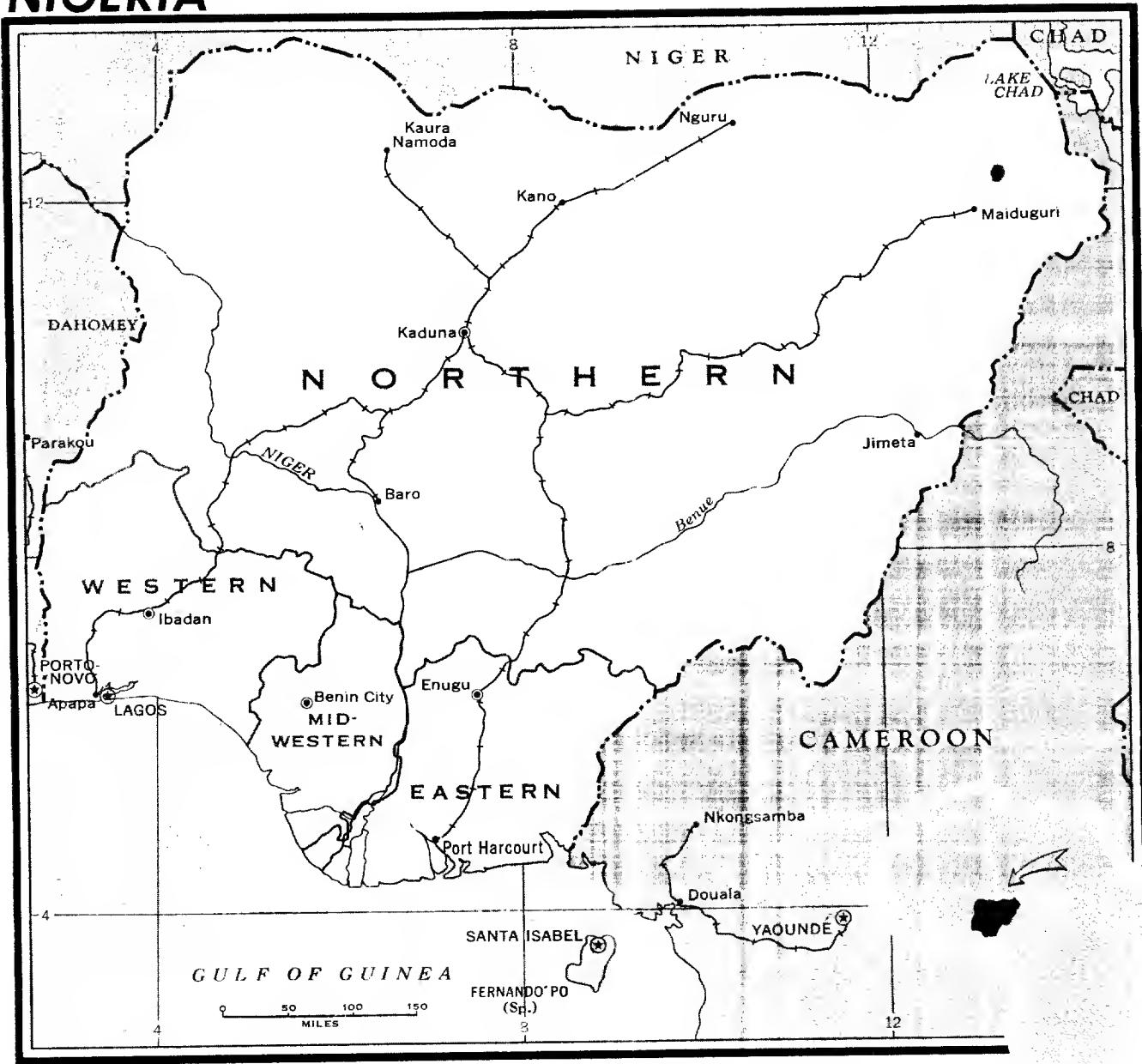
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NIGERIA



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Nigeria: The spread of tribal violence to the Eastern Region is likely to trigger further action by unruly Northern army elements.

Monday's disorders in Port Harcourt were evidently sparked by the return of new waves of Eastern refugees from the riot-torn Northern Region. The bedraggled appearance of the refugees, coupled with news of the large-scale massacre of Ibos in Kano last weekend, prompted aroused Ibos to attack resident Northern Hausa tribesmen and to loot their property, reportedly killing a number of Northerners.

Police and army patrols have now restored order in Port Harcourt as well as in most Northern cities. The Nigerian Government may ask foreign help to maintain order and restore army discipline. Both Supreme Commander Gowon and Northern Military Governor Katsina have hinted that they will request British and American troops, as well as technicians to replace Ibos fleeing the North.

London appears willing to send a team of military officers to find out what military assistance is needed. The British are determined, however, to avoid being put in a position where their troops might be forced to fire on Nigerians.

The anti-Northern outbreak in the East further jeopardizes the reconvening of the constitutional talks, now in recess until 24 October. Among other effects, the violence will increase pressures on Gowon from Northern extremists to invade the East. This could provide a pretext for his opponents to make a move to topple him if he refuses.

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